

mittees in different parts of the country from time to time.

(b) The types of cases taken up by the Lok Adalats include motor accident claims, land acquisition matters, matrimonial matters, civil suits and petty criminal cases compoundable with the permission of the Court.

STATEMENT

Number of Lok Adalats organised by State Legal Aid and Advice Boards/ District Legal Aid Committees

(Based on the information available as on 31-7-91)

S. No.	Name of the State Legal Aid & Advice Board	Number of Lok Adalats organised
1.	Andhra Pradesh	85
2.	Assam	41
3.	Bihar	18
4.	Goa	7
5.	Gujarat	484
6.	Haryana	257
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
8.	Karnataka	492
9.	Kerala	7
10.	Madhya Pradesh	226
11.	Maharashtra	798
12.	Manipur	4
13.	Meghalaya	3
14.	Orissa	1,000
15.	Punjab	2
16.	Rajasthan	253
17.	Sikkim	3
18.	Tamilnadu	93
19.	Tripura	3
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1,030
21.	West Bengal	13

1	2	3
22.	Chandigarh	2
23.	Delhi	14
24.	Pondicherry	2
GRAND TOTAL		4,848

Production of Cotton

4254. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the present state of textiles output;

(b) whether the production of textiles has been adversely affected by short supply of cotton and prohibitive pricing; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to produce more cotton for domestic and export purposes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and

(b) The production of cloth and yarn has been showing an upward trend. Although the supply position of cotton was somewhat difficult, due to decline in cotton production during the 90-91 cotton season and an upward trend in cotton prices, cotton was all along available to mills during the season. Government is not aware of any serious economic crisis faced by textile mills due to fluctuations in the demand and supply position of cotton during 1990-91 cotton season.

(c) Among the various measures identified for improving the production of cotton and availability of cer-

tified seeds to the cotton growers, stepping up of Intensive Cotton Development Programme identification of important districts in the major cotton producing States for concentration of efforts by preparation of special Cotton Production Programme, improvement in plant surveillance measures, improvement in irrigation facilities etc.

[Translation]

Rate of Interest on Provident Fund

4255. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of interest on provident fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the tax benefits available to General Provident Fund subscribers, the current interest rate of 12% per annum is considered reasonable.

Payment of Dearness Allowance to Government Employees

4256. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the instalments of Dearness Allowance given to the Central Government employees whose basic pay exceeds Rs. 3500 are deposited in their provident fund account;

(b) whether in view of exorbitant increase in prices the Government propose to give the instalments of Dearness Allowance in cash to the above category of employees also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE) : (a) Under the existing orders, the instalments of Dearness Allowance due from 1-7-90 onwards are not payable in cash to the Central Government employees drawing pay above Rs. 3500 p. m. but instead are credited to their respective Provident Fund Accounts.

(b) and (c) The additional instalment of Dearness Allowance due from 1-7-91 is payable with the salary of September, 1991. The mode of payment will be decided when the instalment becomes payable.

[English]

Depreciation on Vehicles and Machinery

4257. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of vehicles were purchased during the first three months of 1991 by the business community in order to claim depreciation for the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing full depreciation on such vehicles/machinery etc. bought at the sag end of the financial year instead of allowing only the proportionate depreciation; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to